I am enjoying this vacation in a way I never have before. I am so happy I my need to fit it is gone. I am not fitting in great, not the center of the world or even the third one that is being seeked out. I am using almost all pot instead of liquor.

It keeps me so much quieter. What a relief to everyone, especially me. I don’t have to worry that they all want to avoid me. A downside is that I am truly in a stooper. I mostly like it. I don’t like when I forget everything. But at least I feel confident that I didn’t get naked

8/9/22021 – We got up at 6:30 to catch our 7:30 morning departure. Me, John, Rich and a pretty cool young guide. All he loved in life was fishing and he was really good at his job. He knew every sound and actions.

We were allowed to catch 15 and we got 5. Rich got 3, and I “got” 2. The guide let me reel them in. Of course the netted and hammered him. So literally all I did was reel in. But it was very nice on the river with three guys want to catch a fish. I felt my gratitude. We caught lots of Chum – which are super pretty with their purple streak – but apparently no one wants to each a Chum and they all sent back after we removed the hooks. Hope they heeled. Seems sort of cruel to hurt them, hook them, and throw them back and hope all will be well.

The NakNak river is huge – wider than the Mississippi in Louisianna. The ground plants look very similar to home. We have not seem much natural widelife. Plenty dead, stuffed, animals mounted on walls, that don’t look as bad here as they do in other places.

But there is something so freaking nature about the place. No makeup or fashion clothe. No heels. No new music. No new gadgets unless the gadget truly helps the situation. I can see why people want to live here. It isn’t nature as much as honestly. But as we know honestly can be cruel, and must people don’t want to struggle that hard.

We stayed out for about 8 hrs. Came in and napped.

We all went to Tony’s for a King Crab leg and other good things. The house was cleaned up and I barely recognize it. A few drinks and home for much more sleeping.

August 10th

This morning John and other guys got up to fish. I was going to try and finish my credit card, but nothing works here.

The Lodge: King Salmon lodge – I understand to be 500 a night. So so so not worth it. Perhaps at the height of fishing season people pay that much out of need – but really: No TV, no breakfast, low art (mostly dead animals and beer signs). There is a nice bar – that we have all enjoyed.

John and I have separate twins which don’t put us far enough away to kill snoring.

While he is gone I am stumbling with entertaining myself. Plan to start trying harder in minute

It worked. Texted Dee and got to go on her ride around to say hi to all her old friends. She is one of those people who can go for 10 minutes and make one feel special. Everyone was so happy to see her and Marna. I saw their gardens, houses, stuff! A bunch of old ladies – I would not have thought it, but they seem as happy unmaked up as one can be. Still don’t see it in the cards, but one never knows.

We went to a few bars. They give you a whole big bag of chips when you want them, and then twist the bag closed until the next dirty hand enters.

Linda, from Springfield, is with us. At first I think she is a drunk, but then I see she is just plain happy. He knows about gardening, food, art! She is drinking us around. At one of the yards she suggests we Tundra dive. Oh My Goddess was it sweet. Just throw yourself down with a tiny soft bounce into the cleanest scent in the world. One of those moments of heaven. I also wished I was sober, but maybe I wouldn’t have enjoyed the moment with the abandon I did.

We can hope, had a little dinner and I went to bed.

August 11th,

We are all going to Brooks today. Supposed to be $400, but is $800. Despite the unhappy money surprise, it was so worth $800. We flew over in planes of two. Walked to the resort, and had their horrible soup and sandwich special for $18 – but John did squeeze 18 out of the dinner by going back for tons of tomato’s, blue, cheese and pickles.

We walked down to see the bears eating the salmon. I do remember being thrilled last time – but it was as thrilling if not more so this time. Those bears looked so human and determined in the task of getting food. The take and give of space, good, child care.

There was a little cub, about 100 pounds. He was having problems staying put on the ledge when his mama was trying to guard him and her space.. He fell, and swam just fine to the shore. She shook himself out, and ran to a tree that he climbed. He waited for his mamma to barely win her spot on the rock, and then run to get him and bring him back – but the spot was no longer accessible or maybe desirable.

It was cool to watch the sea gulls, bears, and fish be a tiny cycle of life. Even nicer to know all the fish were about to die anyway. We watched for a long time – and I could have stayed longer. Part of the group broke off to fish. Marna and I walked to the cultural center which showed native people homes that were dug into the ground. We walked up and down the river and got a couple more great shots of bears walking the shore, looking for treats that people may have dropped.

We can back and did our usual sitting around. I was rather sobber for dinner and ordered a wedge salad and overdone salmon, john got bland meatloaf and we got 140 bill. Ugggg. Sort of sat around to see what would happen and then just went to bed.

August 12th,

John got up to fish. I would fish, but only because there is nothing else to do. But that isn’t really a good way to spend $150 or 400 or I don’t even know how much. John caught nothing.

Shanti and I wrapped gifts for Marna party.

Aaron paid for a massage for John and I.

I did laudry and went for walks and found cool mushrooms.

John did some work.

Some of the tension of 13 people with not enough to do and unable to be content in silence with friend, especially old friends with a long history started to come to fruition. People feeling unloved, left out, pushed and disappointed. I wonder if we should have spent more time make the person feel good in the environment instead of band-aid a problem. We all so hate problems.

The boys and Yazi went to a dinner dinner at another lodge. Shantti asked me to go with her to the bar and all the women went to the bar. It was fun. Marna makes everything fun. Singing and dancing, order out nacho’s and it was the most food I ate in a really long time.

We came home and played one game of cards and I went to bed.

August 13th

I slept in until 11:30. John got up and fished. It seems most people did.